

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

In re application of: Royal Alliance Inc. et al
Application No.: PCT/CA2004/000990
Filing Date: July 7, 2004
Priority Date: July 7, 2003
Title: FURNITURE SYSTEM COMPOSED OF PANEL-SHAPED
ELEMENTS, PANEL SHAPED ELEMENT FOR USE IN THIS SYSTEM
AND SECURING SLEEVE FOR USE TOGETHER WITH A PANEL-
SHAPED ELEMENT OF THIS TYPE

Our Reference: WH 11 988WO

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December 24, 2004

Via: Facsimile 011-31-70-340-3016

The International Preliminary Examining Authority
European Patent Office
P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk

Dear Sir:

This is further to the International Search and we request under Article 19
that the claims be amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Replace page 1 of the claims now on file with the new page enclosed
herewith.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended.

Claim 1 of the application has been amended to include the particular feature
that the tie rods connect the panel-shaped elements in an indirect connection where each
panel shaped element bears by means of one of the end sides against a coupling part and
the tie rods ensure that the respective bearing surfaces of the end side of the coupling part
bear against one another.